

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/17392

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : D06F 39/02

US CL : 8/158

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 8/158, 159; 68/5R, 12.14, 29, 30, 139

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A ✓	US 82,722 A (KELLY) 06 OCTOBER 1868 (06.10.1868).	1-18
A ✓	US 3,261,185 A (RIHR) 19 JULY 1966 (19.07.1966).	1-18
X ✓	US 3,633,538 A (HOEFLIN) 11 JANUARY 1972 (11.01.1972), see cols. 1-2.	5, 7, 16, 17
X ✓	US 3,698,095 A (GRAND et al.) 17 OCTOBER 1972 (17.10.1972), see cols. 1-16.	5, 7, 16, 17
A ✓	US 4,004,685 A (MIZUNO et al.) 25 JANUARY 1977 (25.01.1977).	1-18
A ✓	US 4,236,320 A (SCHWADIKE et al.) 02 DECEMBER 1980 (02.12.1980).	1-18
X ✓	US 4,254,139 A (HENDERICKSON et al.) 03 MARCH 1981 (03.03.1981), see cols. 1-10.	5, 7, 16, 17
X ✓	US 4,920,662 A (SEEBURGER) 01 MAY 1990 (01.05.1990), see cols. 1-6.	5, 6, 16, 17
A ✓	US 5,040,311 A (ROY) 20 AUGUST 1991 (20.08.1991).	1-18



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 July 2003 (27.07.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 AUG 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,147,715 A (THURMAN) 15 SEPTEMBER 1992 (15.09.1992), see cols. 1-6.	5, 7, 16, 17
A	US 5,980,583 A (STAUB et al.) 09 NOVEMBER 1999 (09.11.1999).	1-18
A	US 6,243,969 B1 (YEAZELL) 12 JUNE 2001 (12 JUNE 2001).	1-18

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 20 October 2003 (20.10.03);
original claims 1-18 unchanged, new claims 19-21 added (2 pages)]

Concerning Seeburger, US 4,920,662, the Search Report lists claim 6. Possibly there is a clerical error and claim 7 was intended? Clarification is requested.

With respect to the five patent documents of category X and their alleged relevancy to claims 5, 7, 16 and 17, Applicant urges that none of these patents are relevant under category X, or even Y, for at least the following reasons:

Hoeflin, US 3,633,538 teaches the "conditioning" of fabrics with a solid-type fabric conditioner. Applicant's claims are directed to "cleaning". As well known in the pertinent industry, "conditioning" is not "cleaning". Moreover, '538 does not teach or suggest the independent claim 5 and 16 recited "highly absorbent pad material"; nor "scrubbing by" such pad material in the drum. Hence, the claimed invention should be considered both novel and involving an inventive step.

Grand et al. US 3,698,095 teaches a solid "conditioner", which is released from a substrate, when in contact with tumbling fabric. Grand et al. lacks any disclosure, suggestion or teachings above quoted with

respect to Hoefflin '538 and thus does not inhibit a finding of novelty and inventive step of independent claims 5 and 16.

Hendrickson, US 4,254,139 discloses a dispenser of "conditioner", but does not teach or suggest the limitations in independent claims 5 and 16 with respect to "scrubbing" the textile by rubbing thereagainst. Thus, these claims contain novelty and inventive step over '139.

Seeburger US 4,920,662 teaches a lint remover for use in a tumble-dryer. There is no teaching or suggestions of a "highly absorbent pad material"; nor "cleaning/rinsing liquid" as in claims 5 and 16; hence, these claims should be found both novel and having inventive step over '662.

Thurman US 5,147,715 teaches a heat retentive and desiccating pad for use in a clothes dryer, to decrease the drying time. Independent claims 5 and 16 have no such function for its recited pad material, which is for "cleaning", "scrubbing", etc. In fact, although not part of the recitation in claims 5 and 16, the pads in a clothes dryer would not decrease drying time, but by hydration of the textiles, would tend to increase total drying time.

Thus, '715 does not negate novelty nor inventive steps of claims 5 and 16.

Wherefore it is respectfully requested that new claims 19-21 be entered, and that Applicant's comments as to the relevance of cited patents be considered.

STATEMENT

Applicant notes with appreciation that numerous of the eighteen claims searched have no relevant documents cited in categories X or Y, namely 1-4, 9-15 and 18.

*Replaced by
Article 19
amdt.*

the textile does not dry to the extent that
15 wrinkles are formed prior to the textile removal from
said drum.